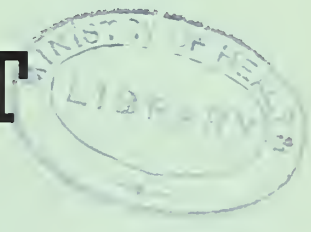


1 Mr Gmagra Dw 5 B
2 Library

HEALTH
A 20 JUN 56
C.R. 17

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHESHAM

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year 1955



T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

- - - - -

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1955

- - - - -

T.P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

T.P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.I.Hsg.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

A.P. Wells, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Rodent Officer

T. Rees (Resigned 25.11.55.)
A. Palmer (Appointed 12.12.55)

Clerk

J.C. How

Shorthand Typist

Miss M. Rathmell

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham, Bucks.

April, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesham Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the environmental hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district during the year 1955.

The graph on Page 11 well illustrates the "every-other-year" characteristic of epidemic measles. During 1955 the cases notified constituted a new high record number of 211, whereas the previous year 1954 the number was one only, whilst in 1953 the number was 126. During 1955 the epidemic was widespread but the complications were few: whilst the attack rate was high there were no deaths. Except for one case of Poliomyelitis, there were no notifications of the more serious infectious diseases. It is, however, a pleasing duty to record that during the year there was no case of diphtheria notified, thus making 1955 the eleventh successive year during which no case of diphtheria was notified in the Council's district. It must be admitted, however, that the number of infants immunized against diphtheria in 1955 was disappointingly low.

Buckinghamshire was one of the 88 Local Health Authorities that availed itself of the Ministry's permission to offer B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis to volunteer 13 year old school children. This was undertaken in the Spring Term. This practice of vaccination against Tuberculosis accords with the changing pattern of tubercular infection and has the approval of present day expert professional opinion. Its value lies in the fact that vaccination is believed to confer protection against tuberculosis upon those children where preliminary testing proves them to be non-reactors. Vaccination of such children protects them against the greatly increased risk of "chance infection" with tuberculosis during the vulnerable first five year period after they leave school.

Immunization is now-a-days practised against at least fourteen infectious diseases. Smallpox vaccination and diphtheria immunization of young infants is well established: immunization against tuberculosis with B.C.G. is now being widely practised, whilst travellers abroad are well acquainted with yellow fever vaccination. Immunization as a preventive measure against these diseases has become a well established procedure and in the early summer of this year immunization will be extended to another infectious disease, viz. poliomyelitis. Sponsored by the Ministry of Health immunization against paralytic poliomyelitis on a voluntary basis of groups of children between the ages of 5 and 9 will be undertaken for the first time in this country in May and June 1956.

This Council's housing policy has been subjected to a critical review owing to the operation of circumstances beyond its control. First, there was the rising rate of interest for new loans, then came the government's request for retrenchment in capital expenditure for the year 1956/57, and later the provisions of the new Housing Subsidies Bill virtually withdrew the government's subsidy on further new housing construction, except for slum and camp clearances.

The result of the review, which had regard to the local demand for houses as shown by the waiting list of applicants, has been that the Great Hivings Estate will be progressively completed by 31st March, 1958, and a further contract for Gregory type houses will be entered forthwith. In addition, the Council decided to proceed with a scheme of 25 further old peoples' bungalows to be completed by 31st March 1959. With regard to subsidies, the Council agreed to the continuation of a General Rate Fund subsidy to the Housing Revenue Account of an amount equal to the total amount of compounding allowances on all Council houses. The resultant deficit is to be met by overall increases in rents.

The routine work of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors has been varied in character. Much time has been devoted to the investigation of applications for improvement grants under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: so too has the time devoted to meat inspection at the Slaughterhouse been considerable, and in addition there has been the routine collection of samples of water, ice-cream and milk for laboratory investigation as well as the investigation of nuisances.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. L.D. Saturley, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. A.P. Wells, Sanitary Inspector, as well as the clerical staff of the Department for their co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

T.P.EVANS.

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF REPORT

Page Nos.

<u>SECTION A - GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS</u>	1 - 3
General Statistics	
Vital Statistics	
<u>SECTION B - HEALTH SERVICES</u>	4 - 5
Hospital Services	
Laboratory Facilities	
Ambulance Services	
Medical Comforts Depot	
Nursing in the Home	
Clinics	
<u>SECTION C - NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS</u>	6
<u>SECTION D - INFECTIOUS DISEASES</u>	7 - 11
Incidence of Infectious Disease	
Tuberculosis	
Milk Borne Tuberculosis	
Poliomyelitis	
Diphtheria	
<u>SECTION E - HOUSING</u>	12 - 13
The Problem of the Older Houses	
Improvement Grants	
Inspections and Summary of Action Taken	
Post war Housing	
The Housing of the Elderly and Aged	
<u>SECTION F - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA</u>	15 - 18
Water Supply	
Public Swimming Baths	
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	
Refuse Disposal and Salvage	
<u>SECTION G - SANITARY INSPECTION</u>	19 - 22
Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Visits	
Library Books	
Verminous Premises	
Public Health Act, 1936,	
Statutory Notices	
Abatement of Nuisances	
Provision of Dustbins	
Rodent Control	
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials	
Act, 1951.	
Pet Animals Act, 1951	
Public Health Act, 1936,	
Moveable Dwellings	
<u>SECTION H - MILK</u>	23
<u>SECTION I - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD</u>	24 - 29
Number of Food Premises by Types	
Registration of Premises, etc.	
Food Hygiene	
Meat Inspection	
Knackers' Yards	
Ice-cream	
Chinese Egg Albumen	
Food Poisoning Notifications	
Condemned Foodstuffs	
<u>SECTION J - FACTORIES ACT, 1927</u>	30 - 32
Inspections	
Defects Found	
Outwork	
Chesham Industries	

SECTION A

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1951	11,433
Population (estimated mid year 1955)	11,830
Area (acres of District)	3,489
Number of inhabited dwellings (per Valuation List 31.12.55)	4,086
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.55)	£87,772
Product of Penny Rate 1955/56 (probable)	£ 342

The Urban District of Chesham was extended by the Bucks Review Order of 1934 from acreage of 1,357 to the present acreage of 3,489. The rateable value on 1st April 1920, was £46,915: on the 1st April 1934 it was £56,528: whilst on 31st December 1953 it was £82,270.

The population of Chesham in 1921 was 8,534: in 1931 - 8,309: and the Registrar General's estimate for 1955 was 11,830.

The product of a penny rate has increased from £216 for the financial year 1934/35 to £342 for the financial year 1955/56.

2. VITAL STATISTICS

Births

(a) Notified Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	80	84	164
Illegitimate	-	3	3

(b) Notified Still Births			
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

	Chesham	England & Wales
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.1	15.0 +
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	29.1	23.1 +

Infant and Maternal Mortality

(a) Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

(b) Deaths of Infants under one year of age	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

(c) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:-	
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.2
All infants per 1,000 registered live births	12.0
All infants per 1,000 live births (England and Wales)	24.9

Deaths

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.6
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.7
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.0

*Provisional only

Note

The corrected Death Rate is obtained when the crude rate has been adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. The adjustment is made by multiplying the crude rate by the area comparability factor, the appropriate factor for the district being .87. The corrected rate is comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

Causes of Death

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
2. Malignant neoplasms	20	16	36
3. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	10	17
4. Coronary disease, angina	16	10	26
5. Other heart diseases	4	14	18
6. Other circulatory diseases	4	5	9
7. Pneumonia	5	9	14
8. Bronchitis	5	2	7
9. Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1
10. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
11. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
12. Congenital malformations	-	-	2
13. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	5	11
14. Suicide	2	-	2
15. Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
16. All other accidents	1	-	1
	<u>76</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>149</u>

District	Population Census 1951	Registrar-General estimated Population Mid-1955	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still- births
URBAN								
Aylesbury	21,054	21,350	15.5 (353)	10.1 (215)	- (-)	17.0 (6)	8.5 (3)	- (-)
Beaconsfield	7,909	8,420	15.8 (133)	8.9 (75)	0.12 (1)	30.1 (4)	22.6 (3)	- (-)
Bletchley	10,916	13,060	17.2 (225)	8.0 (105)	- (-)	17.8 (4)	17.8 (4)	- (-)
Buckingham	3,944	4,120	13.8 (57)	11.7 (48)	- (-)	17.5 (1)	17.5 (1)	- (-)
Chesham	11,428	11,830	14.1 (167)	12.6 (149)	- (-)	12.0 (2)	- (-)	- (-)
Utton	3,250	4,860	13.6 (66)	6.8 (33)	- (-)	45.5 (3)	45.5 (3)	- (-)
High Wycombe	40,692	42,800	16.2 (694)	9.2 (393)	0.05 (2)	11.5 (3)	8.6 (6)	- (-)
Linslade	3,269	3,500	17.7 (62)	9.4 (33)	- (-)	16.1 (1)	16.1 (1)	- (-)
Marlow	6,400	6,710	17.3 (116)	8.9 (60)	0.15 (1)	17.2 (2)	8.6 (1)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	4,366	4,320	12.5 (54)	14.6 (63)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Slough	66,439	67,940	14.5 (986)	8.6 (586)	0.13 (9)	24.3 (24)	21.3 (21)	- (-)
Wolverton	13,421	13,510	13.2 (179)	12.5 (169)	0.07 (1)	5.6 (1)	5.6 (1)	- (-)
TOTAL URBAN	193,168	202,400	15.3 (3092)	9.5 (1930)	0.07 (14)	18.1 (56)	14.2 (44)	- (-)
RURAL								
Amersham	41,432	45,250	14.8 (669)	9.4 (427)	0.02 (1)	19.4 (13)	16.4 (11)	1.47 (1)
Aylesbury	29,543	31,870	15.0 (479)	10.7 (342)	0.09 (3)	14.6 (7)	12.5 (6)	- (-)
Buckingham	9,422	10,160	15.0 (152)	8.4 (85)	- (-)	19.7 (3)	13.2 (2)	- (-)
Eton	43,120	47,190	16.3 (769)	9.2 (436)	- (-)	26.0 (20)	16.9 (13)	1.28 (1)
Newport Pagnell	13,817	14,150	14.6 (206)	12.2 (173)	- (-)	14.6 (3)	14.6 (3)	- (-)
Wing	9,042	8,800	13.0 (158)	9.9 (87)	0.11 (1)	12.7 (2)	- (-)	- (-)
Hinslow	7,263	7,670	13.6 (104)	16.3 (125)	- (-)	19.2 (2)	19.2 (2)	- (-)
Wycombe	39,352	42,910	15.9 (683)	9.4 (404)	0.09 (4)	22.3 (20)	24.9 (17)	- (-)
TOTAL RURAL	192,996	208,000	15.5 (3220)	10.0 (2079)	0.04 (9)	21.7 (70)	16.8 (54)	0.61 (2)
TOTAL COUNTY	386,164	410,400	15.4 (6312)	9.8 (4009)	0.06 (23)	20.0 (126)	15.5 (98)	0.31 (2)
ENGLAND & WALES			15.0	11.7	0.15	24.9	17.3	0.64

Note: In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purposes of clearer comparison.

SECTION B

HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITAL SERVICES

Chesham Urban District is situated in the Oxford Regional Hospital Area. The Regional Hospital Board has delegated the duty of management of the local hospitals to the High Wycombe & District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day-to-day administration to two House Committees. One House Committee is responsible for three hospitals, viz. the Amersham General Hospital, the Chesham (Cottage) Hospital and the Stone Maternity Hospital, Chalfont St. Giles. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital, Chalfont St. Peter.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:-

Tuberculosis - Berks & Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.
General -- Chesham Cottage Hospital
" -- Amersham General Hospital
" -- Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury.
" -- Royal Bucks County Hospital, Aylesbury
" -- War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe
" -- Chalfont St. Peter Cottage Hospital
Infectious Diseases - Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious disease.

Public Health Laboratories are situated at Walton Street, Oxford, and at Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, and in general undertake free of charge the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc. The bacteriological examination of samples of water, milk and ice-cream is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton.

The chemical examination of water is undertaken by the Public Analyst Southwark Borough Council.

3. AMBULANCE SERVICES

Since the operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities of all kinds. The Bucks County Council provides an ambulance service for non-infectious cases for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. Two St. John's ambulances are stationed in Chesham.

Ambulances for the removal of infectious cases are stationed at Aylesbury and Slough.

4. MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot provided by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has again rendered valuable service. In particular the supply of medical comforts has helped relatives to nurse the elderly and chronic sick at home; maternity cases nursed by district midwives were also helped.

Altogether, 1629 articles were sent out in 1955, ranging from a feeding cup to a bedstead. At the close of the year 617 articles were on loan.

Besides supplying patients in Chesham and the neighbourhood, the Depot has sent goods to patients living in Princes Risborough, Mursley, Beachampton, Loudwater, Winslow, High Wycombe and Aylesbury.

Thanks must be given to all members of the Chesham St. John Ambulance Brigade who associate themselves with this work.

5. NURSING IN THE HOME

This Service is now provided by Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., from 305 Berkhamstead Road, Chesham - Telephone Chesham 555.

6. CLINICS

There has been no major change in the dual services provided at the Germain Street Clinic, viz. a Minor Ailments Clinic and a Specialised Service Clinic.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme of the Bucks County Council has established clinics at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, and at High Wycombe.

SECTION C

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 to 1951

These Acts have been described as the final step in the break-up of the old Poor Law, the repeal of which was widely welcomed as it had, in the main, outlived its usefulness. The duties imposed by the Poor Law were transferred in many instances to Local Authorities, and certain duties, namely those under Sections 47 and 50 of the above Acts become the responsibilities of the District Councils.

Section 47

The provisions of this Section have for their purpose the securing of the necessary care and attention for persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and,
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Upon receipt of a report from the Medical Officer of Health, the Local Authority may apply to a Magistrates' Court for an order authorising a person's removal to hospital or other suitable place and for his detention for a period not exceeding three months. The person in respect of whom the application is made or some person in charge of him must be given seven clear days' notice of the intended application and of the time and place at which it is proposed to be made.

Section 47 of the 1948 Act has been amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, of 1951 which contains additional provisions for securing the speedier removal of urgent cases. Under these provisions, the Local Authority may give their Medical Officer of Health general authority to take immediate action where urgent removal is considered necessary; possessing such authority he may apply to a magistrate for an order to detain a person in suitable premises for a period not exceeding three weeks. In these circumstances, the order may be made without notice of intended application having been given.

No cases requiring action under these provisions were brought to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year.

Section 50

Under this Section of the above Acts, the duty is placed upon the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or has been found dead in their area. This duty is exercisable only when it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the year no occasion for the exercise of this duty has arisen.

SECTION D

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of Infectious Disease

There were 215 cases of Infectious Disease notified as follows:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Measles	211	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-

There were also 4 primary notifications of tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MILK BORNE TUBERCULOSIS, 1921 - 1953

The diseases of young children due to bovine Tuberculosis such as "T.B. glands of neck", abdominal tuberculosis, etc. caused by the consumption of raw milk, like diphtheria, may be properly classified among the disappearing diseases. Indeed throughout the country as a whole, it may be said that these diseases have already virtually disappeared. When it is remembered that this disappearance has been achieved during the course of one generation, say roughly during the 1921 - 1953 period, it will be seen that this achievement is one of no mean magnitude. But unlike the disappearance of diphtheria which may or may not prove to be permanent because it is so largely dependent upon the continued co-operation of parents, the disappearance of the diseases due to bovine tuberculosis is believed to be permanent because the medico-social policy upon which the achievement is based and the means devised to implement that policy, are matters which have now been written into the law of the land. Its permanence makes the achievement noteworthy. In the country as a whole taking the number of deaths from abdominal tuberculosis in children under 5 as a criterion of the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis, the number of such deaths in 1921 was 1,107 and in 1953 it was 12.

The policy behind this achievement is based on the fact that ultimately the only satisfactory milk for human consumption must be safe, that is, milk free from tuberculosis, and preferably milk that is safe from infection including tuberculosis. The means devised to achieve this end were two-fold both of which operated concurrently. On the one hand there was induced a steady improvement in quality of the individual members of dairy herds and on the other there was introduced the scheme for the provision of milks of special designation. One of these designations was known as T.T. milk, that is milk from an attested tuberculosis-free herd; another designation was that of Pasteurised milk, that is milk which has been subjected to heat treatment in such a manner as to kill all infectious organisms including tuberculosis.

It was not uncommon for T.T. milk to be pasteurised. The implementation of this policy proved so successful that to-day within certain areas specified by the Minister, and which in all comprise about 43% of the total population of the country the sale for human consumption of milks of special designations is obligatory, thus rendering the sale of raw undesignated milk for this purpose in such areas illegal.

In 1953 the Minister of Food was empowered under the relevant Act, by Order to specify areas within which the sale of designated milks was made obligatory, but until then the change-over from raw to designated milk for human consumption had rested on a voluntary basis. In the country as a whole the change-over was intermittent in character and uneven in its spread. On the whole, the larger towns, including London were quick to welcome pasteurised milk as an additional safeguard to health but the rural areas on the other hand were slower to appreciate its significance. It therefore followed that the risk of contracting tuberculosis from milk was higher in the country districts than in the towns. Indeed it has been estimated that the risk was ten times greater in the country than in a town where all milk was pasteurised during the period 1921 - 1944. Though the figures are not accurately known, in 1921 in London the amount of milk pasteurised was 50% and in the rural districts very much less, with very little T.T. milk sold in either.

In 1944 the amount of pasteurised milk sold in London was 96% and in rural districts still appreciably less. To-day the figure for London is in the region of 100%, and for England and Wales 88%; the amount of milk from attested herds pasteurised 53%.

Abdominal Tuberculosis in children under 5 years of age.

	1921		1953	
	Rates per million	No. of Deaths	Rates per million	No. of deaths
London	136	51	4	1
County Boroughs	437	490	1	1
Urban Districts	336	390	1	2
Rural Districts	252	176	12	8
	1,107		12	

What was once a common disease, viz. Tuberculosis of bovine origin of the bones, joints and other organs has followed cholera and plague into the limbo of the past. The once all too common ailment of children viz. "T.B. glands of the neck", which was once an accepted feature of English life and which was previously known as "scrofula" and also as "King's evil", cured by royal touch, has now disappeared; the long drawn-out battle for safe milk - at least for tuberculosis-free milk - has been virtually won.

Analysis of Notifications & Deaths (T.B.) during 3½ decades.

Year	New Cases		Deaths		Chesham Population
	Respiratory	Non-Resp.	Respiratory	Non-Resp.	
1921/25	33	21	28		1925 8,882
1926/30	20	19	20		1930 9,057
1931/35	24	12	31		1935 10,315
1936/40	18	11	24		1940 11,750
1941/45	32	9	25	7	1945 11,030
1946/50	41	13	23	1	1950 11,420
1951/55	31	6	6	-	1955 11,830

The Council's district has, since the 21st March 1955, been declared by the Minister of Food under Section 23 of the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, a specified area. This means that only milks of special designation may be sold for human consumption within the Chesham Urban District and the sale therein of raw undesignated milk for that purpose illegal.

3. POLIOMYELITIS

In mid-January 1956, the Ministry of Health announced its intention of making available a new British vaccine against paralytic poliomyelitis. The vaccine of the Salk type was believed to be as safe as it possibly could be and it would be available to Local Health Authorities for the vaccination of children in the two to nine year old age group during the months of May and June. Thereafter vaccination would be suspended till after the "polio season" and re-introduced in November when it is assumed that the season will have ended. Dependent upon the amount of vaccine available, it was hoped that between 300,000 and 500,000 children out of $5\frac{1}{2}$ million children eligible would be vaccinated in May and June. The scheme was on a voluntary basis and registrations for vaccination would be completed by the 14th April. The choice of groups for vaccination within the defined limits would rest solely with the Statistical Division of the Medical Research Council. Those children registered, but not vaccinated in the Spring would be given priority in the Autumn.

During the past four months (January - April) considerable public controversy followed this announcement. Anxiety centred chiefly around the safety of the vaccine especially in view of the unfortunate incident with supplies of original vaccine from one particular laboratory in the U.S.A., in May, 1955. What seems to have been insufficiently realised is the fact that immediately on receipt of the news of the events giving rise to the incident, the American Public Health Authorities acted decisively; the extensive pre-arranged programme of vaccination was suspended forthwith, and further use of the offending original vaccine was forbidden. On the discovery of the cause of the incident further stringent safety tests were applied to modified fresh supplies of vaccine. When these tests were successfully concluded, this revised standard vaccine was issued and the unprecedented vaccination programme got under way again. The point here for us in this country is the fact that the new British vaccine is believed to compare favourably, not with the original U.S. vaccine which was discarded, but with the U.S.A. revised standard vaccine which, since the early summer of 1955 has been used in more than 10,000,000 vaccinations without mishap in the U.S.A. In addition, Salk vaccine as used in the U.S.A. has been given to 1,000,000 Canadian children without incident during 1955, and the paralytic attack rate in the vaccinated was less than one fifth of that in the unprotected. Or, put more clearly, the protection afforded may be more readily understood perhaps if it is compared with the protection afforded by vaccination in this country against whooping cough, the results of which have recently been evaluated by the Medical Research Council. The figures show that vaccination against whooping cough gives protection in 83% of cases, leaving unprotected 17%. That is to say it confers protection in four cases out of five. Similar results are believed to follow vaccination against paralytic poliomyelitis with the new British vaccine.

While vaccination with the present Salk type vaccine, which is a formalin-inactivated vaccine, should prove a most important advance in our means of preventing the disease, it would be unjustifiable to assume that the final answer has been found. The experience of the spring and summer will give an opportunity of assessing the full value of the vaccine regarding the scope of its efficacy. It is unlikely that the vaccine will abolish poliomyelitis although it may be expected to give a substantial measure of protection. It would be premature, therefore, to stop investigating alternative preventive measures, of which the most hopeful seems to be vaccine made from living attenuated virus which would be administered by mouth.

Of the 146 Local Health Authorities in the United Kingdom, 144 have accepted the Ministry's offer made in mid-January. The national figure of registrations is believed to be 29 percent of the children eligible. The figure for the County of Bucks as a whole is said to be 22 percent: the figures for the Local County Health Area (Wycombe) which includes Wycombe Borough, Wycombe Rural, Marlow, Amersham and Chesham is reported to be 3,875 registrations - 1,981 males and 1,894 females. These figures include those for Amersham and Chesham Districts which are believed to be proportionately high.

4. DIPHTHERIA

The following table shows the number of children immunized against Diphtheria in Chesham in 1955.

Age Groups	Diphtheria Immunization							Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	
Primary Immunization	61	30	5	4	3	1	-	104
Re-Immunization	-	-	-	-	21	73	-	94

1955 is the eleventh year in which no notification of diphtheria has been received in this district. The percentage of children immunized during the first year of life in this district was 34.7%.

There seems to be good evidence to suggest that the prevalence of diphtheria in the community has undergone a striking change in the past five years. Before 1950 diphtheria was not only common in all parts of the country, but it was thought that the causative organism itself was widely distributed, that in fact it was everywhere. The evidence to support this view was the fact that there was not a town or hamlet where investigation would not have brought to light a number of carriers of the disease. Indeed, this was so much the case that it was hardly worth while seeking carriers and contacts because the search would have produced so many that their control would have been quite impossible. Today, however, the picture is different.

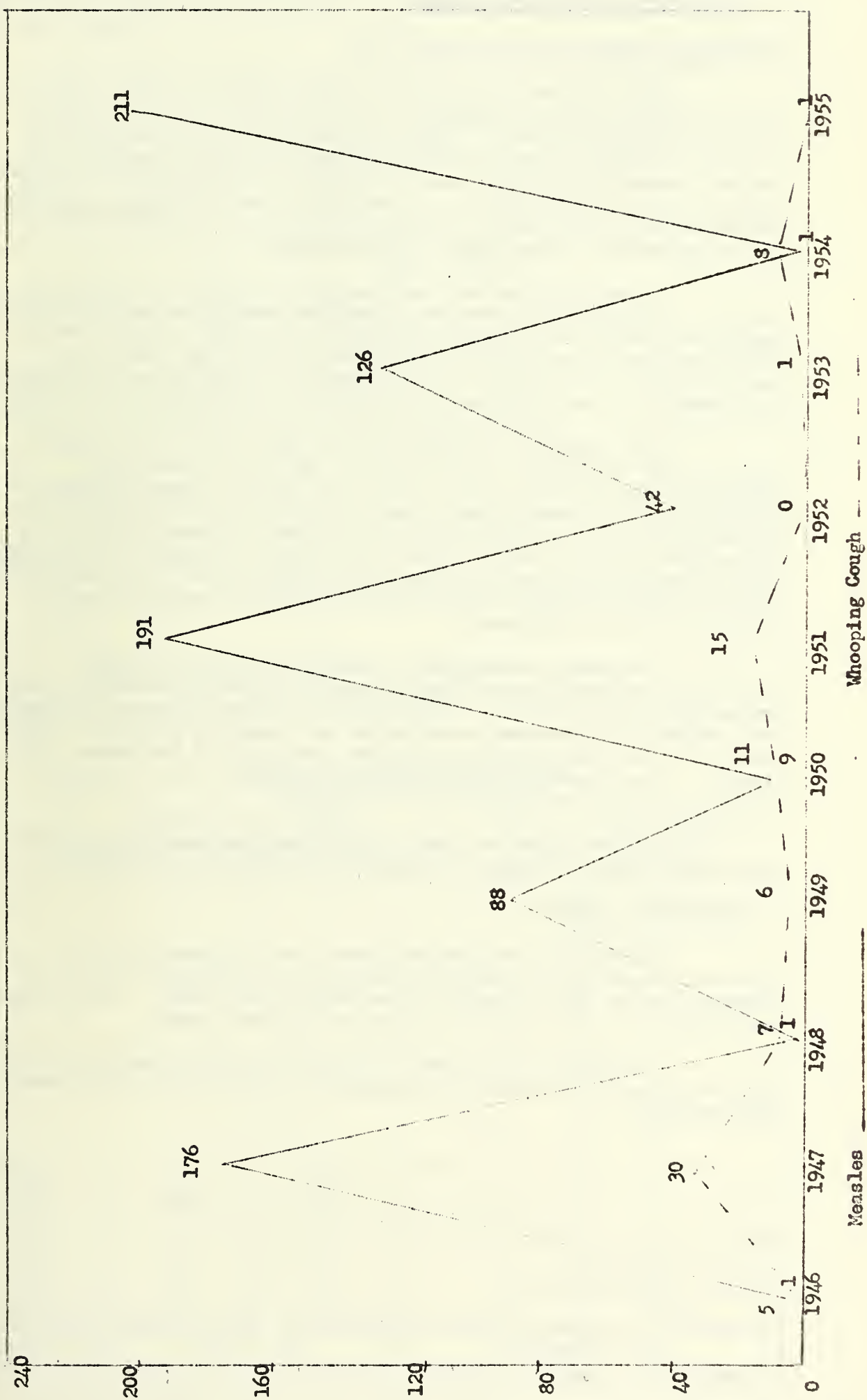
This reversal of opinion is based upon conclusions derived from a close study and detailed analysis of the 159 corrected notifications of diphtheria that occurred in England and Wales during 1954. One of the salient facts established by this study was the comparatively large extent of the country as a whole comprising the combined areas of the total number of County Councils that had been free from diphtheria for periods varying from one to seven years as from the 1st January, 1955.

Of the total number (62) of administrative County Councils, several (6) had been diphtheria free for one year; many (15) had been free for four years, whilst two had been free for six, and another for seven years. A similar story could be told of 60 County Boroughs. The study of the 159 cases during 1954 disclosed that the distribution of cases was scattered, most of the outbreaks occurring in single cases, in twos and threes, or in small single figure numbers. The largest couple of outbreaks occurred in County Boroughs - one with ten and the other with twelve cases.

All the outbreaks had certain features in common: the cases occurred in small family circles or in localised residential areas; the type of organisms was common to each outbreak; the source of the original infection was usually difficult and often impossible to find, whilst at times there was doubt whether a positive bacteriological finding indicated a case or a carrier.

This study, in my view, disclosed another equally important fact, namely the increased incidence of diphtheria in the unimmunized. Of the 100 cases in the 0-14 year old age group, 61 were in children who had never been immunized and there were six deaths. In the immunized group there were no deaths. Indeed this study confirms the accuracy of the statement in an official Report that the "mortality indices have always shown diphtheria to be a most fatal disease at these younger ages", (i.e. in the under 1 year and the 0-4 year old age groups.) It is of course known that the disease might well be almost eliminated altogether. To accomplish this, however, it is necessary that the immunization of not less than 75% of babies should be completed before their first birthday and it may be of interest to remind ourselves that in the country as a whole, the numbers of babies immunized during their first year of life in 1954 was 36% and 38.4% in the first half of 1955. The corresponding figures for the Council's district for 1955 was 34.7%

1949 - 1955 Notifications of Measles and Whooping Cough



SECTION E

HOUSING

1. THE PROBLEM OF THE OLDER HOUSES

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

This Act came into operation just over a year ago, on the 31st July 1954, but the background of the problem of the older houses is, of course, much older. It is estimated that in the country as a whole there are at least 5 million houses over sixty five years old, but the present character of local authority activities dates from the conclusion of the 1914-1918 war. The pattern then followed was first the provision of new houses to make up the losses of the war years, and subsequently a drive against slum dwellings.

A comparable pattern has emerged following the 1939 -1945 war and in the past few years under the 1949 Housing Act and the Housing Repairs and Rents act of 1954, the stage has now been reached when some of the energies directed to the provision of additional houses are being diverted to the repair and improvement of older houses and to the replacement of those unfit and appropriate for clearance.

The objective in respect of the older houses is to secure needed repair of those capable of further service, to encourage appropriate improvements, and to clear away houses deemed unfit for further use. In every sizeable town, in every sizeable hamlet there are houses which have outlived their usefulness as human habitations. The national total of unfit houses is difficult to assess. The estimates which housing authorities were invited to submit by the 30th August 1955 will be subject to some reservations because of the scope for varied interpretations of unfitness.

The number of dwellings classified as unfit for human habitation and fit for demolition within the Council's district, submitted to the Ministry, was 137. Of this number, 52 were considered suitable for inclusion in Clearance Areas whilst the remaining 85 would be dealt with by the procedure applicable to the demolition of individual unfit houses. The Council proposed that the demolition of all the unfit houses should be completed within five years.

Action is due to start on the first Clearance Area in 1956: this will comprise houses in Alexander Street and George Street.

2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During 1955 the Chesham Council has continued to give financial assistance to private persons for the improvement of house property, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949. The Sanitary Inspectors made 521 visits in connection with this scheme.

The table below shows the number of applications received and approved, together with the total amount of grants made for the years 1954 and 1955.

	1954	1955	Total
Number of Applications	13	30	43
Number of grants approved	12	28	40
Total cost of approved improvements	£4,777.5.0d.	£12,279.11.0d.	£17,056.16.0d.
Total amount of grants approved	£2,089.16.0d.	£5,373.14.6d.	£7,463.10.6d.
Number of schemes completed	1	20	21

3. INSPECTIONS AND SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN

The table which usually appears in this report giving statistical information on inspections and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts is no longer required as the information is now submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in separate returns.

Details of inspections carried out will be found elsewhere in the report.

For record purposes, the following figures of housing work, extracted from the above-mentioned return, are of interest:-

Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses demolished as a result of action taking
under Section 11 1

Number of houses made fit by owners after service of
formal notice 2

Repairs

Number of unfit houses rendered fit as a result of
informal action under Public Health or Housing Acts 33

4. POSTWAR HOUSING

During 1955 the Council rehoused 143 families, including 39 exchanges of tenancy.

One case of statutory overcrowding involving 11 persons was relieved.

Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 1,074 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post war period are of interest.

POST WAR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

YEAR	HOUSE TYPES & NUMBER				ANNUAL COUNCIL TOTAL	HOUSES ERECTED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	Old Peoples Bungalows		
1946	35	-	-	-	35	14
1947	-	14	-	-	14	17
1948	-	67	-	-	67	15
1949	-	87	28	-	115	24
1950	-	18	8	-	26	15
1951	-	33	8	8	49	11
1952	-	-	36	-	36	5
1953	-	22	12	5	39	31
1954	-	144	17	-	161	69 +
1955	-	34	13	27	74	123 ø
TOTAL	35	419	122	40	616	324

+ Includes 8 houses erected by a Housing Association.

ø Includes 9 houses erected by a Housing Association.

At the close of the year there were 20 houses under construction by the Council and 72 under private construction.

THE HOUSING OF THE AGED AND ELDERLY

Under present day legislation, the responsibility for the aged and elderly is shared by three different sets of authorities. The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the aged and elderly when they require hospital treatment; the County Council as Welfare Authority is responsible for Part III (institutional) accommodation for the fit aged and elderly who are unable to give themselves, nor are receiving from others, necessary care and attention, whilst the local District Council, having regard to their special housing needs, is responsible for the provision of suitable housing accommodation under the Housing Acts.

For many years the Council has been conscious of its responsibilities in regard to the provision of suitable housing accommodation for the aged and elderly. Townfield flats built in 1938 was an early example of a pre-war attempt to fulfil its responsibilities in this respect. In recent years a warden has been resident there. More recently the Council has devoted part of its Fullers Hill Housing Estate to the erection of grouped dwellings (bungalows) for the elderly; and recently on the site it completed a scheme by building a central community centre with a resident warden's flat incorporated in the same building. There are 23 bungalows for single units and four bungalows for elderly couples. The duties of the warden are supervisory and may be those generally described by the term "Good neighbour". The advantages of such a scheme is that the aged and elderly are enabled to live independent lives in their own homes, instead of becoming candidates for residential accommodation provided by the Welfare Authority. As the scheme of grouped dwellings reduced the need for the Welfare Authority to provide residential accommodation, the Authority with the approval of the Minister may give financial support to such a scheme by refunding one half of the resident warden's wages. The present scheme reached fruition with the completion of the Community Centre, which was formally declared open by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Sir Aubrey Fletcher, Bart., D.S.O., M.V.O., D.L., in November, 1955.

SECTION F

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's Undertaking supplies 84% of the total dwellings within the district in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

An internal piped supply of main water has been laid on to six dwellings during the year. This leaves only 23 dwellings in the District dependent upon a well supply. Samples of water from fourteen of the well supplies were subjected to bacteriological examination and all but one was found to be satisfactory. The owner of the premises from which the unsatisfactory sample was obtained has taken action to trace and remove the source of contamination in the well. The matter was of some concern to him as the well also provides the sole supply for his farm dairy.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Distribution

During the year the following new water mains were laid by Chesham Council's Water Undertaking:-

<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
Vale Rise (Lynn Estate)	168 yards	4"
Kirtle Road	13 "	3"

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

Samples of water as distributed from piped supplies have been taken throughout the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. The following table shows the number of samples taken with the results of examinations:-

Name of Water Undertaking	Samples for Bacteriological Examination		Samples for Chemical Analysis	
	Date	Result	Date	Result
Urban District Council of Chesham	2.2.55.	Satisfactory	2.2.55.	Satisfactory
	24.5.55.	"	24.5.55.	"
	12.7.55.	"	12.7.55.	"
	9.11.55	"	9.11.55.	"
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company				
Berkhamsted supply	2.2.55.	Satisfactory	2.2.55.	Satisfactory
	9.11.55.	"	9.11.55.	"
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge supply	12.7.55.	"	12.7.55.	"
Amersham and Beaconsfield supply	24.5.55.	"	24.5.55.	"

Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of four recent samples:-

No. W/8/55	54 Bois Moor Road, Chesham.	(Amersham & Beaconsfield)
No. W/17/55	Vale Cottages, Chesham.	(Rickmansworth & Uxbridge)
No. W/30/55	Council Offices, Chesham.	(Chesham U.D. Council)
No. W/31/55	Lye Green Cottages, Chesham.	(Berkhamsted supply)

Chemical Analysis

	W/8/55	W/17/55	W/30/55	W/31/55	
Appearance		All samples clear & colourless			
Reaction (pH)	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.1	
		parts per million			
Free Chlorine	0.75	0.10	nil	nil	
Total solids	352	334	317	323	
Chlorine in Chlorides	18.0	13.0	14.5	15.5	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.020	nil	0.002	0.002	
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.010	nil	nil	nil	
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.3	2.0	2.6	2.3	
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil	nil	nil	nil	
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3hrs. at 98° F.)	0.08	nil	0.12	0.12	
Hardness, temporary	250	230	237	222	
permanent	27	47	36	38	
total	277	277	273	260	
Metals --					
Lead, copper, zinc		Not found in any samples			

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in				
48 hrs. @ 37° C. per ml.	0	1	1	1
Colonies on agar in				
72 hrs. @ 20° C. per ml.	0	30	0	1
Coliform bacilli		Not found in 100 ml.		

Opinion - All Samples

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains (31.3.55.)

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal piped supply	3,917	-	11,186
External (standpipes, etc.)	123	28	293

Number of dwellings supplied from wells - 28

2. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

The untreated water from the bore well which supplies the Council's swimming bath is known to be subject to intermittent contamination. When in use the water in the filled bath is dosed regularly with chlorine and bacteriological examination of samples has shown that whenever the free chlorine is maintained between 0.2 and 0.5 parts per million, the water is safe for bathing purposes.

Whilst the Department has submitted no samples for bacteriological examination during 1955, the free chlorine content of the water has been checked from time to time. The tests carried out have shown that the dosage of chlorine was being maintained at an effective level.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the town is on the separate system, the soil water sewer discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Plant in Latimer Road. The effluent resulting from the treatment of the sewage in sedimentation tanks and percolating filters is discharged to the River Chess.

In recent years it has become apparent that the design and capacity of the works was such that the increased volume of sewage received could not be dealt with effectively.

As a first step towards the improvement of the works, the Council made application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for permission to construct an additional percolating filter bed. The matter was considered at an enquiry held by a Ministry Inspector who, rejecting the Council's proposals, recommended that immediate steps be taken to improve the operation of the sedimentation tanks and to bring about a reduction in the volume of water entering the sewers from underground springs in the low lying parts of the town.

Action to effect these recommendations is planned to start early in 1956.

Parts of the District not served by public sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has increased during 1955 with the building of further houses in Berkeley Avenue, Botley Road and other outlying parts of the town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk. Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings.

Cesspool emptying

The Council's machine emptied 160 cesspools during 1955, 139 being in the Urban District, whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas. Charges for emptying cesspools are 15/- for each emptying within the Urban District and 17/6d per hour for emptying cesspools outside the District.

Sewer Extensions

During the year a new sewer was constructed to serve development in Berkeley Avenue. The sewer, 800 yards long and constructed partly of 9" diameter concrete pipes and partly of 6" earthenware pipes, connected to the existing sewer in Asheridge Road.

A further 106 yards of sewer was also laid in Penn Avenue.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL

All house refuse collected in the Urban District is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerator Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

Salvage Return for year 1955

	tons cwt. lbs.			£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	4	13	-	9	6	-
Scrap Iron	6	4	84	28	1	5
Scrap Lead		8	81	35	13	10
Scrap Brass, copper etc.		2	62	13	8	9
Loose Tins	8	7	56	14	13	2
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	19	16	59	£101	3	2
	<hr/>			<hr/>		

SECTION G

SANITARY INSPECTION

1. SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	81
Revisits made to houses under Public Health Acts	98
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts	1
Revisits made to houses under Housing Acts	64
Number of houses inspected for vermin	8
Number of rooms disinfested	1
Miscellaneous visits to houses	558
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants	521
Infestation of wasps destroyed	7
Visits where Infectious Disease has occurred	6
Number of rooms disinfested	2
Visits to Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection)	579
Visits to Butchers' Shops	19
Visits to Fish Shops	7
Visits to Grocers' Shops	43
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	32
Visits to Food Preparing Places	17
Visits to Restaurants	20
Visits to Bakehouses	23
Visits to Dairies	4
Visits in connection with Milk Sampling	6
Visits to Licensed Premises	2
Visits to Knackers' Yard	2
Visits and inspections of Factories	47
Visits in connection with Water Supply	75
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	92
Interviews	402
Miscellaneous visits	381

2. LIBRARY BOOKS

During the year five library books were withdrawn from houses where infectious disease had occurred and were disinfested before being returned to the librarian for re-circulation.

3. VARIOUS PREMISES

During the year one infestation of fleas was reported and treated.

In addition, in response to requests for help from occupiers, nests of wasps were destroyed at seven premises during the summer months.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, STATUTORY NOTICES

No Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, were served during the year.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

The following table shows the number of defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1955:-

Abatement of Nuisances

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Outstanding on 1.1.55.	Reported in 1955	Remedied in 1955	Outstanding on 31.12.55
Dampness	12	21	13	20
Defective doors and windows	8	10	8	10
Defective roof surface water drainage	6	4	6	4
Defective sanitary accommodation	-	12	8	4
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	-	1	-	1
Defective floors, stairs, etc.	3	6	3	1
Defective plasterwork	2	-	2	-
Defective fireplaces	2	5	1	6
Leaking roofs	10	10	9	11
Defective and dangerous ceilings	-	3	-	3
Unsatisfactory yard paving and drainage	8	-	2	6
Defective drainage systems, choked drains	1	6	6	1
Miscellaneous	5	1	2	4
TOTALS	57	79	65	71

6. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Provision of Dustbins

Since 1950 the Council has used the powers given by Section 75(3) of the Act, which provides that in lieu of requiring owners or occupiers of buildings to provide dustbins, the Local Authority may themselves undertake to provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary. An annual charge of 5/- collected with the general rate, is charged for each dustbin.

In practice Council dustbins are not delivered to premises before the attention of owners has been drawn to the unsatisfactory arrangements and they have had an opportunity of providing dustbins themselves.

During 1955, the refuse collection service was examined in detail by the Council and it came to notice that a large number of unsuitable and defective bins were in use by householders. The handling of many of these bins was increasing the difficulties of the refuse collection staff. As a result the Sanitary Inspectors made individual examination of approximately 250 unsuitable and defective bins and took action where necessary to secure the provision of regulation bins.

Provision of dustbins by Council

Number of dustbins provided in 1955	55
Number of dustbins provided 1950/54	<u>43</u>
Total	<u>98</u>

7. RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The methods and practice of rodent control have been similar to those carried out in the District during previous years. The inspection of all types of premises is carried out as a result of notifications received from occupiers and, to a greater extent, by the continual routine survey of the area.

Treatment of rat and mice infestations has been successful in the majority of cases using the new rodenticide 'Warfarin'.

During the year the sewers received two maintenance treatments for rat infestations. The first was carried out in April when 48 manholes were dealt with and 29 complete takes observed. 56 manholes were baited during the second treatment in October, when only one complete take was observed. The reduced take of bait in the second treatment indicated that the first treatment was largely successful.

In addition, a 10% test of the remainder of the sewer manholes was undertaken, resulting in nine fresh infestations being detected and treated.

Frequent treatments have also been carried out on the site of the Council's Incinerator and Sewage Works, and at no time did the infestations get out of hand on this potentially dangerous spot.

Summary of Action taken during 1955

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Auth- ority	Dwell- ing Houses	Agricult- ural	All Other (including business)
I. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification	2	111	-	29
(b) Survey under the Act	5	939	7	23
(c) Reinspections	2	7	-	6
II. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats	3	129	-	31
(b) Mice	-	4	-	7
III. Number of infested properties treated (rats and mice)	3	105	-	19
IV. Number of 'Block' control schemes carried out.	2	7	-	-

8. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two premises are registered under the Act, the activities carried on being the manufacture of soft toys in one case and the upholstery of furniture and bedding in the other.

9. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year one person has been licensed to keep a pet shop in the District.

The business carried on at the premises has been limited to the sale of tropical fish.

10. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 269

Moveable Dwellings

During 1955, 27 persons were licensed under Section 269 of the Act to station moveable dwellings in the district. Twenty-three of the caravans were stationed on the site managed by the Chesham Urban District Council on their land at Trapps Lane, Chesham, the remaining four being located on various individual sites throughout the district.

The Council's site which has been fully occupied since opening in 1951 contains standings for 23 caravans. A piped supply of main water is available and a communal sanitary block has been provided, containing water closets and washing facilities. A rental of 7/6d per week is charged for each caravan.

SECTION H

M I L K

1. Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954
Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

Since the coming into operation of the above-mentioned Regulations, on the 1st October 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

There are ten producers of milk within the Council's area and the majority are known to have licensed "Tuberculin Tested" herds. All but one dispose of their milk in bulk, either to the local firm of Chesham Dairies, Limited, or to the Express Dairy Company (London) Ltd.

The one producer/retailer operates a retail stand in the Chesham area, selling "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Number of Registered Milk Distributors	4
" " " Premises used as Dairies (not being dairy farms)	1

The number and type of licences granted by this authority under the Regulations are given below:-

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised"	1

During the year seven samples of bottled milk in respect of which the special designation "Pasteurised" was in use were collected from licensed distributors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples passed the prescribed tests for "Pasteurised" milk.

2. Food and Drugs Acts.

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Article 20

No action to deal with infected supplies of milk was necessary during the period.

3. Tuberculosis Order, 1913

No notifications of the slaughter of tuberculous animals under the above Order were received during the year.

SECTION I

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Green Grocery Shops	55
Butchers' Shops	13
Wet Fish Shops	3
Fish Frying Premises	4
Bakers	3
Confectionery	14
Restaurants	11
Food manufacturing premises	2
Dairies	1
Factory and Shop Canteens	6
School Kitchens	1
Licensed Premises (public-houses, hotels)	26
Food Warehouses	1
Slaughterhouses	1
	<u>143</u>

Note: Premises at which more than one type of business is carried on are counted once only.

2. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

	Increased on Register 1954	Added to Register 1955	Removed from Register 1955	Total on Register 31.12.55.
Sale and Storage of ice-cream	42	5	1	46
Manufacture of ice-cream	5	--	--	5
Manufacture of Preserved Food	17	--	--	17
Fish Frying	5	--	--	5
TOTALS	70	5	1	74

Note: Of the six premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream, only two are now actually doing so.

3. FOOD HYGIENE

The Sanitary Inspectors made 217 visits to food premises during the year.

The standard of hygiene found has sometimes been below the desired level, particularly in a small number of catering and food preparing premises. The employment of unsuitable or insufficient staff and the overcrowding of small premises is thought to be responsible for many of the unsatisfactory conditions.

"Clean Food" byelaws are in force in the district.

The long awaited Food Hygiene Regulations were laid before Parliament on the 21st December, 1955, and came into operation on 1st January 1956. These Regulations take the place of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, (which is repealed) and add a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, as well as vehicles, etc.

where food is handled.

Local Authorities are responsible for the enforcement of these Regulations.

4. MEAT INSPECTION

(a) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse.

The one licensed Slaughterhouse in the District under lease to the Chesham Council from the Chesham, Wycombe and Tring Co-operative Society has continued to operate during the year, the slaughtering facilities being used by a group of Amersham and Chesham traders.

The Council's Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for the examination of all meat and a system of 100% inspection is in operation. This work has involved 579 visits to the Slaughterhouse during the past twelve months.

A table showing the number of carcasses inspected and condemned in 1955 is given below:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	547	109	234	929	2651	-
Number inspected	547	109	234	929	2651	-
<u>All diseases except T.B. & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	2	-	4	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	108	20	1	17	55	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	19.92%	19.25%	1.28%	1.82%	2.22%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	36	14	-	-	67	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	6.74%	14.67%	-	-	2.52%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total number of animals slaughtered and examined during the year showed a decrease on previous years; comparative figures for the past five years are shown in the following table.

Number of Animals Slaughtered & Inspected during 1951-55

YEAR	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	Total kill in equivalent cattle units(see note below)
1951	2177	1393	3334	89	3353
1952	2006	1078	3879	59	3171
1953	2135	639	4569	558	3541
1954	1185	213	3631	2122	3043
1955	656	234	929	2651	2245

Note: One cattle unit represents 1 cattle beast or 3 calves, or 5 sheep or 2 pigs.

(b) Cysticercus bovis

Only three cases of *Cysticercus bovis* were discovered, a lower incidence than in 1954, when fourteen cases were found.

(b) Percentage of Animals Inspected affected with Tuberculosis

The percentage of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis maintained the improvement shown in recent years. The following table shows comparative figures for the past five years.

Percentage of Number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis

YEAR	CATTLE Excluding Cows	COWS	CALVES	PIGS
1951	8.6%	18.25%	0.4%	5.6%
1952	7.5%	17.8%	0.09%	3.4%
1953	8.3%	12.8%	-	4.3%
1954	8.5%	20.0%	-	2.9%
1955	6.74%	14.67%	-	2.52%

(d) Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1954, made a number of changes in the law dealing with the licensing of slaughtermen. The following is a brief summary of the new provisions:-

- (1) Licences issued before the passing of the Act are rendered invalid after the 30th September 1955. New licences will be valid for one year only.
- (2) In future licences are to specify:
 - a. kinds of animals which may be slaughtered or stunned by the holder.
 - b. types of instruments which may be used.
- (3) Licences authorising the slaughter of horses will be valid only in the district of the Authority granting the licence. Other licences will continue to be valid in any district.

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen.

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December 1955	12
Applications for Licences considered during 1955	1
Applications for Renewals considered during 1955	7
Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of licences)	5
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December 1955	8

5. KNACKERS' YARDS

The licensed Knackers' Yard situated at Broadview Farm, Hivings Hill, Chesham, has continued to operate during the year. In accordance with the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954, an occupier has to submit to the Council an annual return showing the number of horses slaughtered. The return for 1955 gives the figure of 78 horses slaughtered.

Steps are being taken by the Council to adopt Byelaws to deal with the sanitary conditions, management and keeping of records in Knackers' Yards, but these Byelaws will not operate before the end of 1956.

6. ICE-CREAM

During the year frequent visits have been made to premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold with a view to ensuring that the provisions of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, are observed. Most of the ice-cream sold is manufactured outside the District and is of the pre-packed variety.

Ice-cream Sampling

Seven samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and the following table shows a summary of the results obtained:-

	Samples Taken	Provisional Grading recommended by Ministry of Health			
		I	II	III	IV
Ice-cream manufactured in district	2	2	-	-	-
Ice-cream manufactured outside district	5	3	-	-	2
Totals	7	5	-	-	2

The two samples falling within Grade IV, which indicates a doubtful bacteriological standard were from the same source. The Public Health Department of the area in which the ice-cream was manufactured was notified of the result.

7. CHINESE EGG ALBUMEN

Information was received during the year that samples of Chinese Egg Albumen taken in this country had been found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. This commodity is mainly used in bakeries and confectioneries - sometimes in the raw state, e.g. in fillings, soft icings.

Enquiries in Chesham revealed that Dried Egg Albumen, some of Chinese origin, was being used in three bakeries and in a factory manufacturing chocolates and sweets. Arrangements were made to collect samples and to have them examined by the Public Health Laboratory at Luton. Three out of seven samples examined were reported to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory, organisms of *Salmonella* being isolated in each case.

The traders concerned were warned of the dangers associated with the use of the Albumen and agreed to surrender the remainder of the sampled stock in their possession. At the same time, action was taken to trace the wholesalers in this country and to find out the whereabouts of any Albumen distributed from the same source and which might also have been infected. Information so obtained was passed on to the Public Health Departments of the areas concerned.

To illustrate this activity it may be mentioned that one lot of infected Albumen was part of a carton of 28 lbs. which had been divided up by the local wholesale agent and distributed among bakers located in six different local authority areas.

The 216 lbs. of infected Albumen surrendered to this Department was held, pending the outcome of experiments being carried on at the time into methods of sterilisation. It was later released to the wholesalers who gave an undertaking that the albumen would not be supplied for use for food before being subjected to a process of sterilisation authorised by the Ministry of Health.

It is understood the trade has taken up the matter with the Chinese exporters of Egg Albumen.

8. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

One case of suspected food poisoning was notified during the year. Investigations failed to reveal the source of infections or food involved.

9. CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Beef	2	18	25½
Veal			80
Pork		12	76
Mutton			36
Ham			29
Luncheon Meat			12
Sausages			6½
Tripe			20
Bacon			6
Poultry			9
	3	12	78

Tinned Goods

Corned Beef	66	tins
Meat	68	"
Fruit	145	"
Vegetables	48	"
Soup and Stew	6	"
Milk	50	"
Fish	45	"

Miscellaneous

Stoned Raisins	12	lbs.
Frozen Egg	10	lbs.
Dried Egg Albumen	216	lbs.
Chocolate	13	bars

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs (other than meat from the Slaughterhouse) are collected from traders by the Surveyor's Department of the Council and destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

The disposal of meat condemned as unfit at the Slaughterhouse is subject to arrangements between the Council and individual owners. Without prejudice to powers of seizure under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Council has agreed to permit owners to retain possession of unsound meat, provided they give a signed undertaking that such meat will not be used for human consumption.

Before disposal the owners are requested to notify the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the names and addresses of the persons to whom the condemned materials are being consigned. As a safeguard, the Chesham Slaughterhouse Company, who operate the Slaughterhouse, undertake to stain the rejected meat and offal with a green dye before allowing removal from the premises.

SECTION J. - FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	11	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.	93	35	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	6	4	-	-
TOTAL	110	41	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	9	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	10	-	1	-

3. OUTWORK

During the year lists of outworkers have been received showing the names of ten persons engaged in the following classes of work.

Making of wearing apparel	1
Brush-making	9

There were two cases of default in sending lists of outworkers to the Council as required by Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937. The firms giving the outwork were notified and requested to supply the necessary lists in February and August of each year.

4. CHESHAM INDUSTRIES

The following is a list of Factories on the Register on 31st December 1955.

Factories with Power

Woodware and Joinery	14
Motor-vehicle repairs	11
Brushware	8
Boot Manufacture and Repairs	7
Light Engineering	13
Clothing and Textiles	3
Printers	3
Toy Manufacture	2
Plastic Moulding	1
Food Manufacture and Packing	8
Upholstery	2
Manufacturing Jewellers	2
Miscellaneous	19
	<u>93</u>
Building operations	6

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Upholstery	1
Undertakers	1
Stone Mason	1
Blacksmith	1
Dressmaking & Tailoring	2
Cycle Repairs	1
Waste Merchant	1
Radio Engineer	1
Packing	2
	<u>11</u>